

### REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-22 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 10, 19, 20, 21 and 22 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-22 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment, of which claims 1, 10, and 20 are independent claims. The amendments to the claims have support in the originally filed specification, including the paragraphs bridging pages 6-7. No new matter has been introduced. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed March 27, 2006, the specification and claim 20 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1-4, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 17, 19, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent application No. 10/063,777 to Lin ("Lin"), claims 6, 8, 11, 16, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,547 to Legvold ("Legvold"), claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,233,640 to Luke et al. ("Luke"), and claims 5, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include a buffer circuit that is "interfaced with said first hot plug/hot swap interface, said second hot plug/hot swap interface and said storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium." The "buffer circuit" feature is also included in independent claims 10 and 20. For example, in

amended claim 10, a buffer circuit is “interfaced with said plurality of hot plug/hot swap interfaces and said at least one storage interface so as to process data among said plurality of hosts and said at least one storage medium,” and in amended claim 20, a buffer circuit is “interfaced with said first hot plug/hot swap interface, said second hot plug/hot swap interface and said storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium.”

With respect to the §102(e) rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 and their dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that Lin fails to teach or suggest the above “buffer circuit” feature and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Lin discloses that ports 32 and 36 are connected to a control circuit 42 through FIFOs 34 and 38, respectively. See paragraph 20, lines 11-12. To the contrary, the present claimed invention requires “a buffer circuit interfaced with said first hot plug/hot swap interface, said second plug/hot swap interface and said storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium,” as recited in claim 1. That is, Lin fails to teach or suggest the buffer circuit recited in amended claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully believed that amended claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated by Lin and should be patentable. Furthermore, due to their dependencies from patentable independent claims, claims 2-4, 7, 9, 12-14, 17, and 19 should be also patentable.

Moreover, the rejection of claims 6, 8, 11, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on the combination of Lin and Legvold, and the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) over Lin should be also withdrawn at least due to their dependencies from patentable claims 1 and 10.

With respect to the §103(a) rejection of amended independent claim 20 over the combination of Lin and Luke, Applicant again submits that Lin fails to teach or suggest the “buffer circuit” feature of amended claim 22, let alone a cable having at one end a third connector for connecting to said second connector and at the other end a fourth connector for connecting said second host, as admitted as being absent from Lin by the Examiner. Similarly, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Luke that a buffer circuit is used as an interface with the first hot plug/hot swap interface, the second hot plug/hot swap interface and the storage interface so as to process data among said first host, said second host and said storage medium, as recited in amended claim 20.

Therefore, it would not have been obvious for one skilled in the art to achieve the apparatus of amended claim 20 by combining Lin and Luke because neither of Lin and Luke discloses the claimed “buffer circuit” feature. Accordingly, amended claim 20 should be patentable over Lin in view of Luke and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, at least due to their dependency from patentable independent claim, claims 21-22 should be also patentable.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

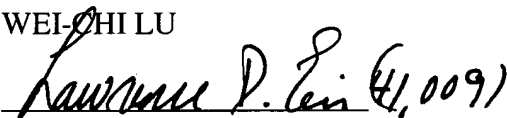
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Respectfully submitted,

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